

There is a Sinclair Broadcasting television station in my market, KMWB.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Too much power has been placed in the hands of commercial media companies by relaxation of FCC regulations.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Running an anti-Kerry "political commercial" for 45 minutes, without providing time for an opposing view, is simply not right just before a critical Presidential election.

I am very disappointed that the FCC has failed to uphold the standards of fairness.

Thank you.